



# The Score

Geelong Chamber Music Society Newsletter

ISSUE 37 JULY 2016

**YOUR NEXT CONCERT Friday 12 August 7.30pm**

## Melbourne Brass Quintet

*McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College*

A concert of music for brass is an exciting new venture for us and it promises to delight those whose experience of music for brass is limited to performances in the open, or to the sound of marching feet! The members of the Melbourne Brass Quintet are all senior members of the Melbourne Conservatorium staff and have had international careers. In addition to teaching, they play with a variety of groups including the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria.



The members of the group are: Dr Joel Brennan and Mark Fitzpatrick, trumpets; Roman Ponomariov, horn; Don Immel, trombone; and Mike Szabo, bass trombone.

The concert might be titled 'Travels through Worlds Old and New'. 17th Century Germany is represented by the early baroque composer Samuel Scheidt's rousing Battle Suite arranged for brass quintet by Philip Jones.

Modern America has produced a number of prolific composers for brass and a number of the musicians have studied in the USA, especially at Princeton. We will be treated to some of the most popular repertoire: Anthony di Lorenzo's, Fire Dance, Eric Ewazen's Colchester Fantasy, and John Cheetham's Scherzo. Experienced performers of the Scherzo advise students not to count... 'just feel it'.

Returning home via Argentina, the musicians will present a World Premiere performance of Andrew Batterham's Melbourne Mosaic. Andrew is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and the Victorian College of the Arts. He studied trumpet, organ and composition and has been commissioned by Symphony Australia and frequently for Band Championships and Melbourne schools. The two movements of this work are titled *The Shrine* and *The Spire*.

## Sara Macliver and the MCO

*GCMS Patron Dr Malcolm John OAM reviews this concert.*

If the opening cello / bass textures did not drag you kicking into a higher realm of anguished beauty, then we have little hope. The sheer humanity of J.S.Bach, sympathetically construed by the white haired hero of Fantasia, was breathtakingly laid before us in the superb opening to Friday's GCMS second 2016 concert. Stokowski's realisation of Bach's cantata *My Jesus, O what Anguish* displayed an acute awareness of the master's style and mood. The robust joy of Brandenburg No. 3, with MCO leader Bill Hennessy 'trying out' the Viola, showed another facet of this creative genius. The players' exuberant

team-work was much in evidence, enthusiastically tossing the main themes to each other, and maintaining healthy tempi throughout. The intellectually challenging Contrapunctus-V from the esoteric Art of Fugue kept the appreciative audience on its toes identifying the main subject and its many computations.



Popular soprano Sara Macliver sang Calvin Bowman's *The Lines of Life* by 18C German poet, Friedrich Hölderlin with measured control, exploring the changing moods of the seven poems with sensitivity. Her special skill as an interpreter of Baroque music was well projected in three contrasting arias, both sacred and secular; the Wedding Cantata excerpt being particularly attractive, always with the focus on *God is our confidence*.

The D minor Violin Concerto, reconstructed by Reitz, was a tour-de-force both from the superb soloist Anne-Marie Johnson and the overall ensemble. The serious nature of the often punishing themes in the outer movements was finely balanced with the lyrical slow movement, and the sheer tenacity and physicality of all players was much appreciated. Once again we are indebted to the MCO for their many visits to Geelong and to the hard working committee who keep encouraging audiences with a pleasing variety of offerings. *MJ*

## 2016 Australian Classical Youth Music Competition



Thirteen very talented young musicians from our region performed in a most interesting and entertaining concert at the Keith Humble Centre Geelong College on Sunday 19 June. The high standard of performance shown by all the performers, the variety of instruments and the different styles of music performed made choosing the winners a difficult task for judge Dr Kevin Cameron.

The first prize of \$2000, sponsored by Geelong Chamber Music Society, was won by violinist **Amy You**. The three

runner-up prizes were won by Lydia Mackie, clarinet, Sarasa Deguchi, violin and Harrison Steele-Holmes, trombone.

The National Semi-final competition concert will be on **Sunday 24 July 2pm at McAuley, Hall Sacred Heart College**. Enjoy an afternoon of superb performances from 10 National Semifinalists drawn from all around Australia.

Door tickets \$20/15/10

## Metropolitan Opera Movies

If you visited the Pivotonian Cinema in the last week before our MCO concert, you would have seen on the big screen an advertisement for our concert, prepared by our multi-talented committee member David Fox. We have entered into a cross-publicity arrangement with the cinema, so watch out for more



ads of forthcoming GCMS concerts. It is now confirmed that two of the current season of **Metropolitan Opera films** have been secured by the Pivotonian. Screening of Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* took place in the first week of July and Richard Strauss's *Elektra* will be screened on 6, 7 and 10 August.

Films of National Theatre plays will also be shown. *One Man, Two Guvnors* on 10 and 12 July and *A View from the Bridge* on 14 and 16 August. The MTC production of *One Man, Two Guvnors* was presented at GPAC a few years ago. All screenings commence at 10am and tickets cost \$25/23 for the plays and \$28/24 for the operas, available from the cinema website [pivotcinema.com.au](http://pivotcinema.com.au).

## Bill Hennessy Master Class

On June 5 William Hennessy presented an interesting and valuable demonstration class based on the sonatas for solo violin by the great J.S. Bach. Bill had asked for students who



were working on these pieces to present them in a master class situation in front of an audience of teachers and parents. There were five students who played and Bill worked with each student individually to help them to use the music of Bach to improve their playing by

analysing the movements needed to make the music more convincing and beautiful.

Bill is a huge admirer of all the music of J.S. Bach and believes that the great man must have been a good violinist and that he must have achieved great skill on the instrument with a minimum amount of time invested - because he did SO MUCH else! Bill believes that by practising the solo sonatas violinists (and also violists and cellists) can develop a huge range of skills that apply to all aspects of string playing.

GCMS were able to bring Bill to Geelong as part of the Society's commitment to young musicians. We are grateful to our donors and friends for their assistance. WG

## Music Diary

### Geelong

#### • Saturday 30 July 6.30pm - *Geelong Chorale*

Silks Room, Geelong Racing Club

"When Icicles Hang" - a cafe concert including the title work, a set of six Elizabethan poems set to music by John Rutter, other music by Cole Porter and George Gershwin

Tickets \$60 (no concession) Phone: 0407 095 408

Email: [thegeelongchorale@gmail.com](mailto:thegeelongchorale@gmail.com)

#### • Sunday 31 July 3pm - *Orchestra Geelong*

Humble Centre, Geelong College

Youth Concerto Concert - Handel, Bach, Mozart, Sarasate, Beethoven & Wagner

Door tickets \$20/15

#### • Friday 12 August 7.30 pm - *Melbourne Brass Quintet*

McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College

*German Baroque to Contemporary American*

Tickets \$50/45/10

#### • Sunday 14 August 3pm - *Trio Anima Mundi*

Keith Humble Centre, Geelong College

*Classical/Romantic - works by Bennett, Dubois, Mendelssohn*

Door tickets \$35/25/10

#### • Sunday 21 August 2pm - *AYCMC National Finals*

Keith Humble Centre, Geelong College

Door tickets \$35/25/10 or from GPAC

#### • Sunday 28 August 3pm - *Australian Chamber Choir*

St Mary's Basilica

*Bach In The Castle of Heaven*

Door tickets \$30/35

## Melbourne

#### • Tuesday 2 August 11am - *Musica Viva Coffee Concert*

Melbourne Recital Centre

*Arcadia Wind Quintet works by Carter, Nielsen and Ibert*

Tickets on line or at MRC box office \$51/20 (under 30)

Includes tea/coffee and cakes from 10am

## Membership & Renewals

Geelong Chamber Music Society relies on its valued members to keep fine concerts alive in Geelong and to continue supporting young musicians. \$20 a year makes you a member... so why not encourage a friend also! Members are treated to an end-of-year musical soirée where advance details of the new concert series are announced! It's members and donors only!

*Membership/Renewal and Donation forms are on the wrapper of this newsletter or available from our website.*

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## Donate *Help us to assist young Victorian professional and elite musicians to achieve their career goals by providing performance opportunities and financial support.*

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